Cyberbullying and Social Interaction in School

Institutional Racism and Sexism

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Cyberbullying has grown exponentially with the rapid onset of modern day technology. It seems as if every student from the age of nine and above is involved in social media. Now many may ask what cyberbullying is. Cyberbullying is the use of technology to harass, embarrass, or even cause harm to someone. This can be transmitted through comments, direct messages, or even tweets not directed at someone. Social media keeps growing with use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap chat, and even Vine videos. These media outlets have taken the world by storm. When looking at all of the current day technology it is astonishing what the world has become. Everything is smart, from cell phones to tablets, to computers, and even TV’s. Social media can be accessed from almost anywhere in the world and it has now become a reoccurring issue. Text messages, pictures, and he even voicemails count as well. In **some situations, cyberbullying is considered harassment.** Intimidation or prejudiced comments that focus on things like gender, religion, sexual orientation, race, or physical differences fall into this category. Bullying can occur either in person or online, this type of meanness counts as discrimination, and is against the law in many states. Cyberbullying is serious issue and it has taken many lives.

Every student and person in this world is pushing themselves to be somebody and to be successful. This task in not always easy and peer social status can play a big factor in one’s attitude towards life. When one enters high school or even late middle school they have already been placed into a specific peer defined class (Jock, Nerd, Prep, Etc.) However, this is not something that can necessarily be chosen, it is how you are perceived by your peers. When striving to become successful, developing a credible identity is important. This can strengthen friendships and even play a factor in your schooling and job. During high school and even late middle school the way you are looked at by your peers will play a huge role in your social placement. This can be altered as we age and move onto our future careers. Your social placement may play a huge influence in your peer relationships during your teen years and could dramatically change your life. How one recognizes his or herself is known as their own self Identity. Perception of your identity is molded through social relationships and is considered a defining characteristic in oneself.

The dated article looks at the life between different cultural forms of high school and its affects or defects in some cases on individual’s education. I loved the write up on Identity because it is something you take for granted. You know your sex, you understand what is consider normal and odd for your gender; but why does leaving the norm, lead to being harassed, bullied, and even defined before anyone gets to know you. People who suffer with finding a true self-image of oneself, or who are given a particular identity, are often times bullied. Now don’t get me wrong, anybody can be bullied but those who are put into a specific social class in high school are often times picked on by the other groups. Ultimately, this has become one of the strongest characteristics upon how one views their self. In comparison to today, self-identity is something that still has to be achieved. I also feel that it’s still one of the strongest characteristics upon how one views who they are and who they want to be. As an adolescent or young adult, you are still vulnerable to not fully understand the effects of defining others. You may also struggle with finding your own identity.

Philip Wexler the author of the article in our book talks about how identity-work is the process of trying to be somebody. In school you are striving for this goal and the way you are viewed by your peers can take a toll and even push you to the edge sometimes. You may look for ways out of things, but I feel that you need to almost go through the effects at some point in your life to fully understand what bullying or even cyberbullying can do to someone. Bullying has been proven to cause negative effects in self-image as well. When your self-image or the way you interpret yourself has been weakened often times people began to hurt themselves or even change who they are. Alcohol and drugs is often times thought of as a way out in modern day society but is it really a way out? You are only harming yourself by using these extracurricular enhancements. Furthermore, bullying is a learned aggressive behavior. This is often times caused from various experiences at home. Students, parents, friends, mentors, counselors, and even teachers have to be aware of these behaviors and cautious upon how they speak and resolve conflict.

Cyberbullying is something that should be monitored by the parents or guardians of a child. It cannot necessarily be prevented, but by avoiding the use of social networks you as an individual can drastically reduce the occurrences of these upsetting behaviors. Wexler also states, “If society becomes more organized in a corporate way, then the overriding deferential class effects on social organization outweigh their shared features.” I agree with this statement but I also feel that the differential in peer social class will always exist. By pairing individuals together they can often times make friends within their given group. I believe that pairing, grouping, and even differentiating between siblings is always going to occur.

“Schools” are often times recognized as institutional sites where different kinds of class and culturally-specified work takes place. Ultimately, kids are highly susceptible to being bullied from the randomized admittance of students. Moreover, cyberbullying is a prevalent issue in our world and actions need to be taken immediately. The more you understand what it is and means to someone the better overall understanding you can teach to other individuals. The effects of both bullying and cyberbullying can be life-altering so take a stand and do the right thing.

Works Cited

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